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# Derwinski Takes a Look at Communism

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The following article on the threat that international Communism poses to the survival of the United States and the freedom of its citizens was written by Congressman Edward J. Derwinski (R-4th, Ill.) especially for the Acme Steel News, at the request of its editor, and is reprinted here as a public service, with permission of the Acme Steel Co.

One of the problems we face as a nation is the confusion in the minds of many American citizens over the exact nature of the Communist menace that threatens the world. Many Americans think of Communism in the same manner that they think of sin—something to keep in mind at Sunday church services and forget the rest of the week.

To some people Communism is a political philosophy; to others an economic theory; to others a form of imperialism, and to a few misguided people, Communism is a force with which we can live in "peaceful co-existence."

Actually, Communism is an all-dominating philosophy which regimented the minds, as well as the bodies of individual people it controls. Communism is an atheistic philosophy, a socialistic economic theory, and a militaristic force—all rolled into one fiercely effective unit by the rulers of the Soviet Union.

Castro in Cuba, the puppet rulers of North Korea, Albania, Poland, and any other satellite country, the Communist Party leaders in the United States, France, Mexico, or in any other free nation—all dance to the tune that is being played in Moscow. Communism, therefore, is an international structure, contradictory to our free enterprise system; contradictory to the political principles of our Constitution; contradictory to our Christian heritage; contradictory, therefore, to our American way of life.

What I should like to do in this discussion with my friends at Acme Steel is to dwell upon a few major points that would be helpful to us as we analyze the nature and intensity of our struggle against Communism.

We must understand and compare the economic structure of the Soviet Socialist Republics with that of the United States. Therefore, the first point I wish to call to your attention is the internal difficulties that face the Soviet economic machine.

## Red Bloc Troubles

During the past few years, reports that all is not well within the satellite countries came to the United States via the Central Intelligence Agency and individual analysts, but never from the governments themselves. Current-

ly, however, the situation is different. Communist governments themselves have admitted certain crises—that in agriculture is a most cogent example, and it is becoming more and more obvious that the U.S.S.R. is having its own economic difficulties. In Romania a certain very limited freedom has been granted as a pacifier to a restless population. The same case exists in Poland.

I am sure that many of you are familiar with the famous Five Year Plans instituted in Soviet Russia in 1928. If Communist-published statistics are to be accepted, the first goals were met in four years instead of five, the Second was also successful. The Third was largely inoperable because of World War II.

In 1946 the Fourth Plan began and was directed toward recouping war losses and rebuilding industry. The Fifth Plan continued to emphasize industry but also was geared to military preparation with very limited attention paid to consumer goods. After a little more than a year, the Sixth Plan was suddenly scrapped, and Mr. Khrushchev announced to the world the boldest venture in Communist expansion yet to be undertaken.

According to the theory expressed by the Soviet Premier, "historic world victory of socialism" will be achieved in 1970 because Russian production growth is faster than that of the United States. Even while forecasting domination through "peaceful competition with capitalism," Mr. Khrushchev made no effort to hide his real intention, namely, Communist domination of the world:

"... the world socialist system will produce over half of the total world industrial output. By this the superiority of the world system of socialism over the world system of capitalism in material production, in the decisive sphere of human activity, will be ensured."

Plainly this indicates a goal of Communist economic predominance and a goal of a worldwide Communist order. Nor has the role of Russian satellites been overlooked in this comprehensive plan. The Seven Year Plan adopted by the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in January 1959 makes this abundantly clear:

"The international significance of the Seven Year Plan is in the fact that its fulfillment means a further consolidation of the might of the world system of socialism."

"The Soviet Union considers it to be its prime task to continue promoting the greater unity of socialist coun-

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tries, the development of close economic and cultural connections . . . still greater solidarity . . ."

The Soviet economic system in 44 years has not come close to the classless society of "to each according to his needs" envisioned by Marx and Lenin.

There is no doubt that in certain areas the Communist theory is collapsing. In fact, the class divisions and the spread in wages and other economic incentives between the workers and the managers has become far greater than in any capitalistic country, and the living standards of the great majority of Russians remain little better than they were under the Czar. In food supply, housing, and transportation, Russian per capita standards are the poorest in Europe.

Communism, while attempting to adopt the basic drives of individual incentive, is saddled by so much bureaucracy that it simply does not produce the goods and services needed to sustain the expanding flourishing nation which Russia purports to be. The mere fact of the recent "crisis" in Russian agriculture serves to prove this point. Where Mr. Khrushchev built up a rosy picture of "a chicken in every pot" he is now suggesting that horse-meat substitute for chicken, and the Communist Party in East Germany and other satellites is calling for volunteers from non-farming occupations to save the agricultural situation. This is what collectivism has done to agriculture throughout the Soviet bloc. Interestingly, the Wall Street Journal on May 18, 1961, had this report:

" . . . Private plots make up only 3 to 5% of Russia's farm land, yet they yield a product astonishingly out of proportion to that small share. In 1959, some 47% of the nation's meat came from them, 49% of the milk, 82% of the eggs, 65% of the potatoes, and 53% of the vegetables. In Hungary, farmers still own 2% of the land, but in 1959 livestock on this 2% of the land was one-third that of the whole nation."

That the Communist directorate is allowing even this small fraction of incentive production to continue in existence is an indication of their recognition of the need for some dependable production.

So long as even the smallest example of private enterprise exists within the Soviet bloc, the captive nations have within themselves some basis of comparison between freedom and slavery.